

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 INT-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

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R 102300Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7182

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: LABOR UNREST IN MINES

1. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ IN HIS OCTOBER 9 ADDRESS TO THE NATION ONCE AGAIN CALLED ATTENTION TO DISRUPTIVE LABOR SITUATION IS MINING SECTOR. MORALES BERMUDEZ RESPONDED FORCEFULLY TO OCTOBER 5 CENTRMIN UNION MANIFESTO AND CHARGED THAT UNION LEADERS WERE SEEKING REPRESSION IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT "HUMANIST" PERUVIAN REVOLUTION HAD FAILED AND ONLY RECOURSE FOR WORKERS WAS VIOLENT AND BLOODY REVOLUTION BASED ON CLASS HATRED. UNION MANIFESTO HAD REJECTED "PARTICIPATRY" COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ACCUSED GOP OF A LABOR POLICY FAVORING "YANKEE IMPERIALISMAND THE NEW CLASS". UNION CALLED FOR INTENSIFICATION OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE AND ANNOUNCED A GENERAL STRIKE AT CENTROMIN (NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OCTOBER 12).

2. THE LABOR MINISTRY HAS ISSUED A UNILATERAL RESOLUTION DECLARING CENTROMIN CONTRACT SETTLED WITH AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD WAGE INCREASE OF 70 SOLES (APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$1.60) PER DAY. LAST UNION DEMAND HAD BEEN FOR 120 SOLES PER DAY AND OCTOBER 10 WORKER ASSEMBLY WILL VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT LABOR MINISTRY RESOLUTION.

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3. MEANWHILE, SPCC TOQUEPALA UNION CALLED OFF LENGTHY STRIKE

IN MINE OPERATION OCTOBER 8 ONLY TO SCHEDULE NEW STRIKE FOR ALL TOQUEPALA WORKERS FOR OCTOBER 14. UNION MEETING WHICH TOOK THIS ACTION ALSO RESOLVED TO REAFFILIATE TOQUEPALA UNION TO FAR-LEFT LABOR FEDERATION LED BY RETURNED DEPORTEE VICTOR CUADROS.

4. COMMENT: BY ITS RETURN TO WORK AT SAME TIME SCHEDULING NEWSTRIKE, TOQUEPALA UNION AVOIDED IMMEDIATE LEGAL CONFRONTATION WITH GOP AND POSSIBLE DISMISSAL OF ILLEGALLY STRIKING WORKERS. LABOR MINISTRY WILL NOW HAVE TO ISSUE NEW RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED STRIKE. UNION CONTRACT AT TOQUEPALA EXPIRES IN MID-OCTOBER AND THIS WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER ISSUE AROUND WHICH UNION CAN RALLY RANK AND FILE. CENTROMIN UNION AT ITS OCTOBER 10 ASSEMBLY IS EXPECTED TO REJECT LABOR MINISTRY RESOLUTION AND PROCEED WITH OCTOBER 12 STRIKE IN ORDER TO FORCE MORE FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT.

5. MORALES BERMUDEZ' CHARGE THAT FAR-LEFT IS INVITING REPRESSION WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE GOP DESIRE TO AVOID THIS ROUTE IF POSSIBLE. GOVERNMENT WILL APPARENTLY ATTEMPT TO PLAY-OUT LABOR MINISTRY SUPERVISED NEGOTIATIONS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. IF UNIONS REFUSE TO RESPOND TO WARNINGS, COUPLED WITH SOME GOP FLEXIBILITY ON DEMANDS, GOVERNMENT MAY SEE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CRACK DOWN ON UNION LEADERSHIP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, POLICIES, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR DISPUTES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIMA08465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750354-0266
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751062/aaaacczt.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR UNREST IN MINES
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EMIN, PE, (MORALES BERMUDEZ C, FRANCISCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006